

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00184 221021Z

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8813

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UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 0184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, GB

SUBJ: PORT EXPANSION

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT GOG MAY CONTRACT THIS YEAR FOR EXPANDED PORT IN LIBREVILLE AND NEW PORT AT MAYUMBA.

2. LIBREVILLE'S OWENDO PORT IS IN NEED OF EXPANSION IN VIEW OF RAPID BUILDUP OF MARITIME TRAFFIC. FRENCH ENGINEERING COMPANY BCEOM WAS CALLED IN TO DO STUDY, AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS SHOW TWO POSSIBLE APPROACHES: A) TO THE EAST OF EXISTING QUAY, BUILD ANOTHER QUAY ON CONCRETE PILINGS PLACED ON ROCK SHELF BELOW SEABED, WITH BERTHING FOR TWO VESSELS. COST IS ESTIMATED BY PORT AUTHORITIES AT APPROX. DOLS 80 MILLION (20 BILLION CFA). B) TO THE WEST OF EXISTING QUAY, DO LANDFILL, JETTY, AND QUAY WITH CAPACITY FOR FIVE TO SIX VESSELS AT COST OF APPROX. DOLS 200 MILLION (50 BILLION CFA). PORT AUTHORITIES PREFER LATTER PLAN, BUT SOUNDINGS NOW IN PROGRESS BY BCEOM WILL DETERMINE BY MARCH OR APRIL WHETHER SANDY BOTTOM AT THAT LOCATION WILL SUPPORT PILINGS. PLANNED COMPLETION DATE FOR OWENDO IS APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS FROM START-UP, AND PORT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, MR. BACOT, ANTICIPATES PROJECT WILL BE OPENED TO INTERNATIONAL BIDS THIS YEAR, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS JUNE OR JULY.

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3. MAYUMBA PORT CONSISTS OF A QUAY FOR ONE VESSEL PROTECTED BY A SEAWALL, AND IS ESTIMATED TO COST APPROX. DOLS 40 MILLION. COST COULD RISE BY ANOTHER 50 PERCENT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS, IF PLANNED BRIDGE TO MAYUMBA IS NOT COMPLETED AT TIME OF PORT CONSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT. SITE IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT NEAREST SOURCE OF ROCK IS LOCATED 40 KILOMETERS AWAY.

BACOT EXPECTS A DECISION THIS YEAR ON WHETHER TO LAUNCH
BIDDING.

4. RECENT MORRISON-KNUDSEN VISITORS WERE INFORMED OF
THESE PROJECTS, AS WAS MUNIER OF MCDERMOTT.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE AS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT STEIGMAN

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